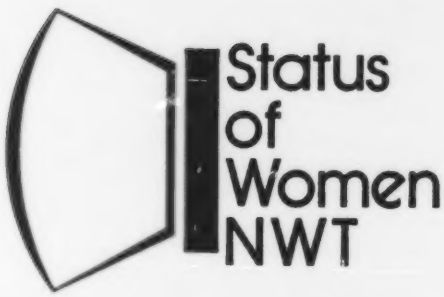
ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE



1984 - March 1987 Report

MANDATE FOR THE ADVISORY COUNCIL:

The Act to establish the Advisory Council on the Status of Women was proclaimed on January 16, 1984.

The Advisory Council consists of such number of members as the Minister deems appropriate, who are representative of the women in the Territories and their interests. Council members are appointed for a three year period.

The Act states that their duties are:

To advise the Minister on matters referred to them and on issues they deem appropriate.

Regarding concerns of women they may:

Receive and hear petitions and suggestions.

Recommend and undertake appropriate research.

Recommend and participate in programs.

Publish reports, studies and recommendations.

Furnish the public with information.

Recommend policies and programs to promote the status of women.

Submit reports to the Minister for presentation to the Legislative Assembly.

Assist the Minister in developing public awareness of the status of women.

Council Membership at March 1987

President:	Edna Elias	Coppermine, N.W.T.
Vice-President:	Janet Armstrong	Iqaluit, N.W.T.
Vice President:	Katherine Peterson	Yellowknife, N.W.T.
Members:	Rita Cli	Fort Simpson, N.W.T.
	Florence Barnaby	Fort Good Hope, N.W.T.
	Elsie Casaway	Yellowknife, N.W.T.
	Peepeelee Nutaralak	Broughton Island, N.W.T.
	Leonie Duffy	Coral Harbour, N.W.T.

Past Council Membership

Jeela Moss-Davies	Ottawa, Ontario
Kate Tompkins	Yellowknife, N.W.T.
Cindy Gilday	Yellowknife, N.W.T.
Helen Adamache	Coppermine, N.W.T.
Rudy Arnana'aq	Baker Lake, N.W.T.
Faith Cronk	Yellowknife, N.W.T.
Nancy Tupik	Baker Lake, N.W.T.
Bertha Allen	Inuvik, N.W.T.
Emelia Gratrix	Fort Smith, N.W.T.

Staff

Executive Director:	Toni Graeme
Executive Secretary:	Sharon Darroch
Community Worker:	Jenifer Rigby
Research Analyst:	Nancy Austin
Administrative Clerk:	Dara Henderson

ISSUES ADDRESSED:

The Advisory Council has pressed the government to hire more women at senior levels and has recently been pleased to see some progress made.

The Council has also been encouraging the government to include women in the Affirmative Action program, now at the policy development stage. This will continue to be a priority concern.

Native women's rights under the Indian Act - Bill C-31.

Trapping rights for native people.

Initiatives to address the problem of spousal assault.

Fair sentences for batterers and sexual assault offenders.

De-indexing of senior citizens' pensions and family allowances.

Developed a Talent Bank of women's names from which recommendations for appointments of women to various boards and councils are made.

The Council has lobbied for major improvements in the field of childcare for northerners, including:

- An increase in the level of financing for students in training;
- An increase in the number of spaces;
- Development of legislation and standards.

In the area of education they have lobbied for:

- School counsellor training that will include counselling skills for problems such as spousal assault, sexual abuse and incest;

- Self-defence training for girls;

- Distance education for women in remote communities who are unable to take advantage of traditional educational opportunities because of financial or family circumstances;

- Removal of sex stereotyping in the school curriculum;

- Midwifery training for nurses at the Iqaluit (Frobisher Bay) Hospital, and midwives to be more generally available in the N.W.T.

PRESENTATIONS:

Response to the government's proposed Human Rights Code - Spring 1985.

Brief on Pornography and Prostitution to the Fraser Commission - September 1985.

Brief to the Task Force on Public Broadcasting - October 1985.

Presentation to the N.W.T. Legislative Review Committee on amendments to territorial Acts to comply with the Charter of Rights - November 1985.

Participated in a brief to the Unemployment Insurance Commission - March 1986.

Brief to the Universities Association identifying the need for distance education programs and childcare for students who are parents - April 1986.

Brief to the Parliamentary Task Force on Childcare - June 1986.

Pornography Paper published August 1986.

MEMBERS ATTENDED AND/OR PARTICIPATED IN:

Inuit Women's Association Annual General Meeting in Igloolik - January 1985.

Native Women's Association Annual General Meetings in November 1985 and October 1986.

Family Violence conferences in Fort Rae and Iqaluit (Frobisher Bay) - January 1986.

N.W.T. Equality Rights Conference - April 1986.

Midwifery Conference for Women of the Americas - May 1986.

CCLOW (Canadian Congress on Learning Opportunities for Women) - June 1986.

Female Offenders Seminar in Fort Smith - November 1986.

Open House held in Yellowknife - February 1985 and December 1986.

Sylvia Gold, President of the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women attended our Council Meeting - February 1986.

Louise Dulude, President of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women attended our Council Meeting - October 1986.